

**CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT  
Regional Planning Services Department**

Staff Report to the Regional Planning Committee  
Meeting of Wednesday, October 20, 2004

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**SUBJECT:**

The Province's Regional Transportation Advisory Committees

**BACKGROUND:**

January 21, 2004 During discussion of the Province's "Opening Up BC" transportation investment plan, the Committee requests staff to obtain information on the regional transportation advisory committees mentioned in the report.

**DISCUSSION:**

In 2002 UBCM passed a special resolution on the Province's intention to establish regional transportation advisory committees (RTAC's). UBCM resolved to support the principle of local government involvement in advising on provincial transportation priorities in regions, and secondly, that RTAC's "must have significant and meaningful local government involvement (Attachment A)."

The Ministry of Transportation has established eight RTAC's throughout British Columbia to identify regional transportation needs and advise the minister on regional priorities. These RTACs participate in the ministry's annual planning processes and feed into the Provincial Strategic Transportation Plan. RTACs are advisory bodies rather than financial authorities. Control of transportation investments will remain with the province.

Committee members are appointed by the minister through a nomination and application process. Participants are drawn from regional districts, business, the transportation industry and other industry sectors. Attachment B lists the Vancouver Island RTAC membership.

The RTAC boundaries are based on regional district boundaries except in the Bulkley Nechako, which has been divided into coastal and interior sections. The eight RTACs represent the province outside of the Lower Mainland, where Translink, as a regional transportation authority, already exists. Attachment C includes the terms of reference for RTAC's as well as a map showing RTAC boundaries.

Under the RTAC terms of reference there is no requirement for the members to advise their respective regional district boards on the activities of the RTAC, nor is representation balanced by population. For example, although the Capital Region

comprises roughly half of the population on Vancouver Island, it has only two representatives on the Vancouver Island RTAC out of 14 members.

For more information on RTAC's please refer to the Ministry of Transportation website at:

[http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/key\\_initiatives/RTAC/rtac.htm](http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/key_initiatives/RTAC/rtac.htm)

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That Regional Planning Committee receive this report as information.

**RGS CONSISTENCY:**

N/A

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION:**

N/A

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Mark Hornell, MCIP  
Director, Regional Planning Services

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:**

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W.M. Jordan, Executive Director